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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 007068

SIPDIS

FBI FOR OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS ATTN: REBECCA  
MOLONEY AND JOYCE MCCLELLAND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/30/2015

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [KTFN](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: UPDATED SCENESETTER FOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION (FBI) DIRECTOR ROBERT S. MUELLER, III

Classified By: CDA Nancy McEldowney, reason 1(b) and (d).

SUMMARY

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1. (U) Embassy Ankara looks forward to welcoming you to Turkey. This will be the first high-level FBI visit to Turkey since Director Freeh came in 1998, prior to the opening of the Legat office in Ankara in October 1999. Turkish government and press interest in your visit will be very high. Your visit provides an opportunity to further strengthen our excellent working relationship with the Turkish National Police and the Turkish National Intelligence Organization and to advance our cooperation with the Government of Turkey in their anti-terror and anti-crime efforts. As you are likely to encounter in other countries you will visit on this trip, there is intense interest in the Turkish press in CIA-leased airplanes transiting the region and allegations of detainee abuse, and you are likely to be asked about these issues.

2. (C) As you are aware, the single largest terrorist threat to Turkey is Kurdish separatist insurgency Kongra-Gel (KKG), which is also referred to by the name of its predecessor organization, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). The perception that the coalition forces in Northern Iraq have not done enough to suppress Kurdish separatist activities remains a major irritant between our two countries. In addition to action against the PKK in Iraq, we are working with Turkey to convince European countries to crack down on PKK criminal activities, terrorist financing, networks, and propaganda outlets.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

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3. (C) You will arrive in Ankara at a time when bilateral relations have been steadily improving from a low point early this year, brought on mainly by events in Iraq. The turning point came with Prime Minister (PM) Erdogan's June visit to Washington, when the President urged him to take ownership of the relationship. Since then, both sides have been publicly defending the importance of good bilateral relations. Both sides have also sought to expand and intensify our official dialogue. Your visit is part of that, something you may wish to point out publicly and privately. We continue to work closely with Turkey on a number of issues including Afghanistan, Turkey's EU candidacy, Cyprus and Turkey's IMF program.

POLITICAL ATMOSPHERICS

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4. (C) PM Erdogan remains Turkey's most popular politician and his pro-Islamic Justice and Development Party (AKP) is firmly in control of parliament. Secularists, including the bureaucracy and the military, worry about what they view as AKP efforts to advance an Islamic agenda on issues like restrictions on headscarves in universities or on graduates of religious schools, but the AKP government has had little success on these issues. Turkey has been rocked by allegations that the Interior Ministry's paramilitary Jandarma were involved in a November bombing in the heavily Kurdish southeastern province of Hakkari; several investigations are underway.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

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5. (U) The Turkish economy has recovered strongly from the financial crisis of 2000-2001 under an IMF-sponsored economic reform program. Through fiscal austerity and the independent Central Bank's right monetary policy, Turkey's economy has stabilized after years of booms and busts with strong growth, an improving debt situation, and increased foreign investment. The Government of Turkey occasionally backslides on economic reform, but is broadly moving ahead under IMF and EU pressure. The October 3, 2005 start of EU accession talks, though a long-term process, has added to business confidence. Although Turkey's economic situation has improved substantially in the past three years, the

country remains vulnerable to unforeseen events that could send investors fleeing the country's thin financial markets.

#### JUDICIAL

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16. (U) The criminal justice system in Turkey is administered by the Ministries of Justice and Interior. The Justice Ministry consists of the public prosecutors offices, the courts, and the prisons. The Interior Ministry consists of the Turkish National Police (TNP) and the Jandarma. Crimes are investigated by the TNP or Jandarma (based upon their respective jurisdictions); prosecuted by the Public Prosecutor; and tried before a court consisting of from one to three judges depending on the type and severity of the criminal offense. The TNP handles law enforcement responsibilities for urban areas in Turkey, and the Jandarma handles law enforcement matters in the rural countryside. The courts apply the law based upon a "code" system (adapted from Italian criminal law), as opposed to the "common law" system. Case preparation and evidentiary standards are not yet up to U.S. or western European standards.

17. (U) An Extradition Treaty and a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty is in effect with the United States Government.

PKK

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18. (C) Iraq has been the major sore point in U.S.-Turkish relations for the past three years, and a particular source of Turkish ire is the continuing presence of the separatist PKK in northern Iraq. The PKK called off its unilateral "cease-fire" with Turkey in the summer of 2004, which had been in place since 1999. Since then, both PKK attacks (primarily using IEDs) and increased Turkish military activity in the southeast have resulted in dozens of deaths. The Government of Turkey blames us for allowing the PKK to maintain terrorist training camps in northern Iraq, from which PKK leaders have command and control over operations in Turkey. Coalition forces are not in a position to take resources from the fight against the insurgency in order to fight the PKK.

19. (C) In an effort to take action where we can - and to improve our relationship with Turkey - there is an ongoing interagency effort to approach European countries where the PKK currently conducts criminal activities to support its terrorist goals (including extortion and narcotics trafficking). The PKK also runs media outlets in Europe and its European network provides logistical support to its operatives in Turkey and Iraq. The USG estimates that illegal PKK "mafia"-like activities in Europe raise \$300 million per year. The U.S. effort on PKK in Europe is multi-pronged, including diplomatic pressure on European governments not to allow PKK to use their territory, pressure on PKK media outlets, and an offer to work more closely in support of Turkish efforts to secure European law enforcement and judicial system action against PKK. This support was offered by APNSA Stephen Hadley when he visited Ankara in September and by other senior officials. Complementary to these efforts, Treasury, State and DOJ are pressing Turkey to strengthen its relatively weak anti-terrorism finance regime. Additionally, we are providing enhanced intelligence support to the Turks as they carry out counterterrorism operations in Turkey.

#### KEY ISSUES TO RAISE DURING YOUR VISIT

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10. (U) The TNP is the main liaison contact with the Legal Attache office. We would request that you thank the TNP for its continued cooperation and support. You may wish to express condolences for the loss of TNP officers in Iraq in 2005 and for the many deaths over the past two decades as a result of PKK and other terrorism, noting that we are aware of the sacrifices the TNP makes daily and we appreciate the advice and guidance they provide to us.

11. (C) Turkish authorities are to be congratulated on the recent arrest of Lu'ay Saqa, who supported the Al-Qaeda role in the 2003 Istanbul bombings. We will seek to assist the Turkish authorities in confronting the terrorist activities that are undertaken by the PKK and various Marxist organizations from safe havens in Europe and northern Iraq and that continues to threaten Turkish citizens. We seek to assure the Turkish authorities that we will follow any lead they provide us regarding anyone in the U.S. who may be connected to or providing support for terrorists. We also want the Turks to know that if they have information about PKK affiliates operating in Europe, we will work, consistent with U.S. law, with law enforcement liaison in Europe to bring them to justice.

12. (U) The Embassy is especially proud of the recent

successful cooperation between the FBI and the TNP that resulted in the arrests in Turkey and Morocco of those responsible for releasing the destructive ZOTOB virus, which plagued CNN, ABC News, the U.S. Congress, and numerous corporations throughout the world.

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